

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 03581 042033Z POSS DUPE
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02
TRSE-00 /060 W
-----051915 027727 /40

R 041825Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3150
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL NAPLES

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UR, IT
SUBJECT: SOVIET AMBASSADOR GETS EMBROILED IN CONTROVERSY

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR NIKOLAY RYZHOV HAS BECOME EMBROILED
IN A CONTROVERSY IN WHICH HE IS BEING CHARGED WITH INTER-
FERING IN ITALIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. CENTER OF DISPUTE IS
RYZHOV'S RECENT REPRESENTATION TO MFA'S SECRETARY GENERAL
MANZINI REGARDING PLANS TO HAVE A SECTION DEDICATED TO
DISSENT IN EASTERN EUROPE AT THIS YEAR'S VENICE BIENNALE.
IN MAKING HIS APPROACH TO MANZINI, THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR
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SAID THAT IF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE GOES THROUGH
WITH ITS ANNOUNCED PLANS, THE SOVIET UNION WOULD
HAVE TO WITHDRAW FROM THIS YEAR'S BIENNALE AND WOULD
HAVE TO DISCONTINUE PARTICIPATION IN THE FUTURE.
RYZHOV ALLEGEDLY ARNED THAT IF SOVIETS WITHDREW FROM
THE FESTIVAL, SO WOULD ALL THE OTHER EAST EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY MANZINI MET WITH BIENNALE DIRECTOR AND SUGGESTED THAT HE MIGHT FIND A "DIPLOMATIC WAY" OUT OF THE PRESENT SITUATION. THE DIRECTOR, CARLO RIPA DE MEANA, PROCEEDED TO GO PUBLIC AND HAS SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION IN PROTEST OVER THE SOVIET ACTION. (HIS RESIGNATION IS SURE TO BE REJECTED BY THE ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE WHEN IT MEETS.)

3. THE ISSUE RECEIVED MAJOR COVERAGE IN PRESS MARCH 4 WITH VIRTUALLY ALL ARTICLES INFERRING SOVIET INTER-FERENCE IN ITALIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND QUESTIONING HOW SOVIET AMBASSADOR CAN PRESUME TO SPEAK FOR INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE. SHARPEST COMMENTARY ON THE SUBJECT APPEARED IN LA STAMPA UNDER THE TITLE "LIMITED SOVEREIGNTY FOR ITALY TOO?". ASIDE FROM CRITICIZING RYZHOV'S ACTION, COMMENTARY SAYS THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S CONTINUED PRESENCE IN ITALY QUOTE BECOMES AT THIS POINT AN OFFENSE TO THE INDEPENDENCE OF OUR COUNTRY END QUOTE.

4. RYZHOV'S MOVE PRESENTS YET ANOTHER DILEMMA FOR THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI). ITS DAILY L'UNITA COVERED THE STORY EXTENSIVELY, INCLUDING AN EXPLANATION TO THE ITALIAN NEWS AGENCY ANSA BY THE AMBASSADOR, ON MARCH 3. ADDITIONALLY, L'UNITA CARRIED A CAUTIOUS COMMENTARY ON THE SUBJECT BY PCI CULTURAL SECTION CHIEF ALDO TORTORELLA. IN HIS PIECE, TORTORELLA CRITICIZED THE UNDUE SOVIET INTER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REFERENCE IN ITALIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, BUT SUGGESTED THAT THE BIENNALE BE USED TO DEVELOP UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND NOT TO DISTURB RELATIONS.BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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